

HOUSE BILL 2635
By Montgomery

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 3, relative to parental involvement in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 3, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-2-305.

(a) The LEA in consultation with parents, teachers and administrators, shall develop and adopt a policy to promote the involvement of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the schools within the school district, including:

(1) A plan for parent participation in the schools which is designed to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline;

(2) Procedures by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and review learning materials; and

(3) Procedures by which parents who object to any learning material or activity on the basis that it is harmful may withdraw their children from the activity or from the class or program in which the material is used. Objection to a learning material or activity on the basis that it is harmful includes objection to a material or activity because it questions beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion.

(b) The policy adopted by the LEA pursuant to this section may also include the following components:

(1) A plan by which parents will be made aware of the district's parental involvement policy and the provisions of this section, including:

(A) Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 relating to access to children's official records.

(B) The parent's right to inspect the school district policies and curriculum.

(2) Efforts to encourage the development of parenting skills.

(3) The communication to parents of techniques designed to assist the child's learning experience in the home.

(4) Efforts to encourage access to community and support services for children and families.

(5) The promotion of communication between the school and parents concerning school programs and the academic progress of the parents' children.

(6) Identifying opportunities for parents to participate in and support classroom instruction in the school.

(7) Efforts to, with appropriate training, support parents as shared decision makers and to encourage membership on school councils.

(8) The recognition of the diversity of parents and the development of guidelines that promote widespread parental participation and involvement in the school at various levels.

(9) The development of preparation programs and specialized courses for certified employees and administrators that promote parental involvement.

(10) The development of strategies and programmatic structures at schools to encourage and enable parents to participate actively in their children's education.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "parent" means the parent or person who has custody of the child.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it